

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15
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R 221627Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2669
INFO ALL AC CAPITALS 2924

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 12635

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAGR-EEC
SUBJECT: LARDINOIS'LAST PRESS CONFERENCE

1.IN HIS LAST PRESS CONFERENCE AS COMMISSONER,GIVEN THE MORNING
OF DECEMBER 22,LARDINOIS MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS APROPOS US-EC
AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS.ASKED FOR HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIS
SUCCESSOR,HE GAVE TWO:

A)KEEP THE CAP ALIVE;

B)DON'T GO TO WASHINGTON WITH YOUR CAP IN HAND.

LARDINOIS FOLLOWED UP ON THIS BY SAYING THAT COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT
MAKE TOO MANY CONCESSIONS TO THE US IN AGRICULTURE.HE SAID THAT
US-EC AGRICULTURAL TRADE WAS TOO ONE-SIDED,NOTING THAT THE GAP
IN THIS TRADE (WHICH HE PLACE AT MORE THAN DOLS 5BILLION IN 1976)
WAS LARGE THAN THE TOTAL TRADE GAP WITH JAPAN.

2.LARDINOIS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE
DAIRY PACKAGE.HOWEVER,HE SAID THAT THE ADOPTION OF THE CO-
RESPONSIBILITY TAX ON MILK WAS "NO LONGER IN QUESTON".IN ANSWER
TO A QUESTON,
HE SAID THAT THE CAP COULD SURVIVE IF THE MEMBER STATES LET IT
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SURVIVE AND IF THEY "PLAY THE GAME".OTHERWISE IT COULD COLLAPSE
WITHIN THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE NEXT PRICE FIXING.HE SAID THAT THE
UPCOMING PRICE FIXING EXERCISE WOULD CONSTITUTE "THE MOMENT OF
TRUTH"FOR EC AGRICULTURAL POLICY.LARDINOIS SAID THAT THE COST
OF THE CAP,WHICH NOW AMOUNTS TO ONLY ABOUT 0.4 PERCENT OF COMMUNITY
GNP,WAS NOT EXCESSIVE,BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE KEPT AT THAT LEVEL

(RELATIVE TO GNP),AND THAT BETTER USE SHOULD BE MADE OF THE
FUNDS.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

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